

Serial No. 10/729,617

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, lines 1-17 have been amended as follows:

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, the outside spindle is mounted to an outside handle of a lock to turn therewith. An outer end of the outside spindle includes a slot and at least one engaging piece formed thereon. In an embodiment of the invention, the outer end of the outside spindle includes two diametrically disposed engaging pieces. The core retainer is securely mounted to the outer end of the outside spindle. The core retainer receives and positions a lock core interchangeably mounted in the outside handle. The core retainer includes a longitudinal slot aligned with the slot of the outside spindle, with the lock core extending into the slot of the outside spindle and the longitudinal slot of the core retainer. The core retainer further includes at least one positioning opening spaced from two ends of the core retainer. In an embodiment of the invention, the core retainer includes two diametrically disposed positioning openings for securely receiving the engaging pieces of the outside spindle.

In an embodiment of the invention, each engaging piece is formed by ~~means of~~ pressing the outside spindle inward, leaving a substantially U-shaped opening, with the engaging piece extending inward into an interior of the outside spindle.

Page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 8 have been amended as follows:

The latch mechanism 6 is mounted between the inside rose liner 43 and the outside rose liner 53 and includes a casing 60, a latch 61, and a cam 62 that is operably connected to the latch 61 for retracting the latch 61 and that has a through-hole ~~[[621]]~~ (not labeled) through which the locking/unlocking bar 55 extends. When either handle 41, 51 is turned, the locking/unlocking bar 55 is turned to retract the latch 61 inward, achieving the unlatching operation.

The outside handle 51 includes a figure "8" hole 511 for receiving an interchangeable lock core 54 having a corresponding cross section. The lock core 54 is inserted through the hole 511 of the outside handle 51 into the core retainer 57. The outer end of the outside spindle 56 includes a slot 561 and a notch 562. The core retainer 57 includes a longitudinal slot 571 aligned with the slot 561 of the outside spindle 56. The lock core 54 also extends into the slot 561 of the outside spindle 56. The ~~[[lock]]~~ core retainer 57 includes a protrusion 572 on an inner end thereof for engaging with the notch 562 of the outside spindle 56.

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Page 5, line 15 through page 6, line 3 have been amended as follows:

In this embodiment, the outer end of the outside spindle 56 includes two diametrically disposed engaging pieces 564, and the core retainer 57 includes two diametrically disposed positioning openings 574 spaced from two ends of the core retainer 57. The respective engaging piece 564 is formed by ~~means of~~ pressing the outside spindle 56 inward, leaving a substantially U-shaped opening 563 and an engaging piece 564 extending inward into an interior of the outside spindle 56. When the core retainer 57 is engaged with the outer end of the outside spindle 56, the respective engaging piece 564 of the outside spindle 56 is engaged with the respective positioning opening 574 of the core retainer 57, thereby providing a secure engagement between the core retainer 57 and the outside spindle 56. Thus, the core retainer 57 and the lock core 54 are provided with a pulling-resisting effect in the axial direction. Namely, the lock core 54 will not be damaged when an axial pulling force is applied. Accordingly, the pull-resisting property of the lock core 54 of the lock is improved without resulting in a complicated lock structure while providing a torsion-resisting effect for the lock core 54.